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Extension Service - United States Department of Agriculture



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## WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

### SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES.. AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some items of interest in the week's summary: A State-wide food and nutrition training school; results of farm labor program; work on dairy feed problems; war activities of home demonstration club members; and repair clinics for home equipment and farm machinery.

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NEW YORK

November 24, 1943

Foods and nutrition school.-State-wide food and nutrition training school was held at college of home economics in cooperation with State Emergency Food Commission, November 16 to 18. Purpose was to prepare home economists for giving instruction on nine nutrition goals set up for State, as follows:

1. Eat more beans, soybeans, and soybean products.
2. Use more grain foods, better breads, good spreads for bread, more cereal dishes.
3. Use more vegetables, and cook them to save minerals and vitamins.
4. Make meat supplies stretch farther.
5. Serve hearty breakfasts for everyone every day.
6. Prepare good lunches, especially those carried by school children and war workers.
7. Make full use of home-preserved foods.
8. Eliminate waste caused by spoilage, poor selection, and poor preparation and cooking of foods.
9. Interpret "basic seven" nutrition recommendations of U. S. nutrition program, according to food supplies and habits of people of New York State. Make these so adaptable that in spite of shortages or rationing, and varied incomes, homemakers can ably guard good nutrition of their families.

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Attendance at school was 165, including home demonstration agents; 4-H Club agents; emergency home demonstration agents, of whom 11 were from New York City; homemaking teachers; and chairmen of county and city nutrition committees. Magazine and newspaper representatives also attended to get first-hand information for public. Other leaders who came to prepare themselves for local service included representatives from State department of education, Red Cross, Farm Security Administration, Food Distribution, State department of health, and State department of social welfare. In next few months these leaders will carry information they gleaned to all families in State, through training schools in all areas, demonstrations, exhibits, lectures, and other types of publicity.

When formal training school ended, about 40 persons stayed another day to do experimental cookery under direction of staff of food and nutrition department. Cookery was mainly concerned with use of soybeans and soybean products.

Food preservation.—Complete reports on food preservation are not yet available, but 82,239,000 quarts of canned food have been reported to date, indicating 55 percent increase in amount of food preserved as compared with year ago. Over a million of these quarts were canned in food preservation centers. Containers of jams, jellies, and fruit butters totaled 23,080,000. Shortage of fruit this year in New York State caused decrease in amount canned by homemakers, but there was large increase in quantity of vegetables preserved. Four million pounds of food were preserved by freezing and approximately 90,000 by dehydrating.

Home canners did excellent job during year. However, reports indicate poor-quality equipment was serious handicap to food preservation program and discouraged many homemakers. Poor-quality rubbers often gave imperfect seals, and some rubbers gave bad flavor to food even though seal was perfect. Many cartons of imperfect jars were reported. Frequently, glass jars which Army posts and oil companies made available to homemakers could not be used because No. 63 lids could not be purchased.

State outlook for 1944.—Farmer spokesmen indicate determination to produce to fullest ability. Increases over 1943 production are deemed possible in potatoes, onions, lima beans, carrots, cauliflower, peas, sweet corn, tomatoes, and other vegetables. Milk and eggs may be lower. Production per cow is declining now. If feeds are available, a small increase in egg production can be made. Home-grown feeds will be expanded as much as possible, but 75 percent of dairy grain rations and 85 to 90 percent of poultry grain feeds normally come from the Midwest. Farmers reemphasized seriousness of their chief problems: labor, machinery, transportation, feed. Apparent shortage of some seeds and some grades of fertilizer also may prove serious. Skilled year-round labor is more of a worry now than seasonal labor in light of experience during 1943 harvest.

VIRGINIA  
November 1, 1943

Farm labor.—Apple harvest is about complete, and labor camp at Castleman's Ferry in Clarke County and Bahamian camp at Winchester have closed. Practically no loss of apples occurred in that section, because of good harvesting weather, light crop, and more labor than was expected. Camp at Timberville will continue through winter season to supply labor to processing plants in vicinity. Trailers will house workers. Camp at Daleville, Botetourt County, has been closed, and

apple harvest in that section is over. All labor camps in Norfolk and Princess Anne Counties have been closed. One labor camp in Accomac County was closed in mid-October; other will be closed soon. Workers in that county have been harvesting string beans and sweetpotatoes. Two camps in Northampton County will operate until November 15, unless killing frost occurs. Workers there are harvesting primarily string beans. Canning company in county has about 150 Bahamian workers and hopes to keep them until late November.

Most farmers are doing well in corn harvest, and will perhaps use convicts in emergency cases.

Getting year-round farm help is most difficult problem at present. State farm labor supervisor has received numerous requests, many of which cannot be filled.

In many sections farmers are planning labor camps and other procedures for 1944 to meet harvest labor demands. An earlier start than in 1943 is hoped for.

Through October 31, approximately 16,422 seasonal workers (men, women, and youth) and about 720 year-round workers were placed on farms in State through emergency farm labor program.

Dairying.-Dairy staff members worked to ease hay and protein feed shortage. Through meetings, correspondence, and other means, they emphasized balancing of rations, methods of feeding and management of cows during feed shortage, distribution of breeding cattle, and need for better milking on dairy farms.

In interest of developing program for large-scale installation of barn hay driers, conferences were held with dairy production committee and directors of State dairymen's association, Governor and budget committee, and with WPB officials in Washington. Object is to have enough hay driers installed so that better quality hay can be cut earlier next spring. Special drive will be made during next 6 or 8 months, if enough motors and fans are allocated for this purpose.

Herds were inspected in at least five counties to assist dairymen with culling programs and to lay foundation for breeding of better herds. Every effort was made to encourage dairymen to hold best cows and cull inferior ones.

State 4-H hand-milking contest, October 30, marked end of all-summer contest in which 272 4-H Club members in 23 counties took part in hand-milking cows on home farm. Fauquier County boy, who milked 7.10 pounds of milk a minute, was high scorer and set record for Virginia contests.

Home demonstration work.-Women of home demonstration clubs of Henrico, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Nottoway, James City, Surry, and Sussex Counties demonstrated skill developed through clubs by helping to furnish special centers for servicemen in various Army camps in eastern Virginia. Armed with ironing boards, irons, machines, and sewing equipment, these women went to service centers and made draperies and slip covers, repaired and refinished furniture, and supplied small accessories such as pictures, ashtrays, and new magazines. Women of Chesterfield County alone made 9 pairs of draperies and 7 slip covers for Red Cross Recreation Center at Camp Lee. Their work was so successful they were asked to make draperies, 49 slip covers, and to refinish and arrange furniture for reception room at hospital.

Carroll County home demonstration groups conducted Cancer Foundation drive, including educational and financial phases. Approximately \$300 was raised for care of indigent cancer patients, and 23 of such patients received treatment during year.

One home demonstration club member in Greene County made 45 pounds of American cheese. Many homemakers in county are making cheese for school lunches. One woman is making it in  $1\frac{1}{2}$ - and 2-pound molds for Christmas gifts.

Despite dry weather, Loudoun County home agent reports she found 28 different vegetables in adequate quantity in home demonstration club garden. Success of garden was attributed to good garden plot and frequent shallow cultivations.

Under Fairfax County home demonstration program, 275 sewing machines have been reconditioned by owners, and 217 new replacement parts obtained. Steam-pressure cookers have been tested, and parts ordered and replaced. Each of these conservation programs was handled as a clinic.

In 22 counties, home agents or leaders who received help in spring on remodeling carried on their own fall remodeling clinics or programs. Extension clothing specialist visited 33 counties during fall to assist with various wardrobe problems, including shortages of children's clothing, rise in cost of clothing and fabrics, and tailoring of garments.

Forestry.-Because of summer and fall drought, fire-protection work was directed primarily to forest and other outdoor fires, rather than to fires in buildings. Army's "Salute to Wood" Caravan showed at five points in Virginia, with good crowds, averaging 5,000. Extension workers are assisting foresters of U. S. Forest Service in forming contacts for Timber Production War Project.

Livestock.-Fifteen feeder-calf sales took place in October, with estimated attendance of 4,000 persons. Total of 6,253 calves were graded and sold at auction. At junior fat-pig show and sale, 46 pigs brought \$1,412.61.

Special breeding-pig projects were given final scoring in 14 counties. Project has been established in 56 counties with average of approximately 5 registered sow pigs per county. Each club member is expected to practice good feeding and management, and projects are scored on these as well as on individual pigs.

Repair clinics.-Since July 1942, 37 schools have been held for training home demonstration agents and other professional county workers in maintenance and simple repair of household equipment. Those trained held repair clinics in rural communities, at which more than 3,500 sewing machines and 1,700 other pieces of equipment were cleaned, repaired, and adjusted.

Nine regional and county schools for combine operators and owners have been held in cooperation with several combine manufacturers. Each school included 2 to 12 counties. Average attendance was about 68. Total of 617 farmers were given intensive instruction on adjustment, care, repair, and operation of combines.

Poultry.-Poultry specialists discussed feeding, housing, general management, and culling, at 76 culling demonstrations, attended by 858 people. They visited 110 other farms in 36 counties.